

§ 3715.1

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§ 3715.1 Do the regulations in this subpart apply to my use or occupancy?

To determine if the regulations in this subpart apply to your activities, refer to Table 1 in this section.

TABLE 1

Applicability of this subpart	
If your proposed use of the public lands— Includes occupancy and is “reasonably incident” as defined by this subpart.	Then— The provisions of this subpart apply to you. You must seek concurrence from BLM before beginning this use and comply with all provisions of this subpart.
Involves the placement, construction, or maintenance of enclosures, gates, fences, or signs.	The provisions of this subpart apply to you. You must seek concurrence from BLM before beginning this use and comply with all provisions of this subpart.
Is reasonably incident, but does not involve occupancy.	The provisions of this subpart do not apply to you, except for §§ 3715.4, 3715.5 and 3715.7. You are subject to the applicable regulations in 43 CFR part 3800.
Is <i>not</i> reasonably incident (involving rights-of-way, for example), but may be allowed under the public land laws.	The occupancy consultation provisions of this subpart do not apply to you. Your use is not allowed under this subpart. You must seek authorization under 43 CFR Group 2900.
Is not allowed under the public land laws, the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, or other applicable laws.	Your use is prohibited. You must not begin or continue unauthorized uses.
Involves occupancy of a site, or any subsequent site within a 25-mile radius of the initially occupied site, for 14 days or less in any 90-day period.	The provisions of this subpart do not apply to you. Refer to the applicable regulations in 43 CFR part 8360 and pertinent State Director supplementary rules. 43 CFR part 8360 will not otherwise apply to a reasonably incident use or occupancy that this subpart allows.

§ 3715.2 What activities do I have to be engaged in to allow me to occupy the public lands?

In order to occupy the public lands under the mining laws for more than 14 calendar days in any 90-day period within a 25-mile radius of the initially occupied site, you must be engaged in certain activities. Those activities that are the reason for your occupancy must:

- (a) Be reasonably incident;
- (b) Constitute substantially regular work;
- (c) Be reasonably calculated to lead to the extraction and beneficiation of minerals;
- (d) Involve observable on-the-ground activity that BLM may verify under § 3715.7; and
- (e) Use appropriate equipment that is presently operable, subject to the need for reasonable assembly, maintenance, repair or fabrication of replacement parts.

§ 3715.2–1 What additional characteristic(s) must my occupancy have?

In addition to the requirements specified in § 3715.2, your occupancy must involve one or more of the following:

(a) Protecting exposed, concentrated or otherwise accessible valuable minerals from theft or loss;

(b) Protecting from theft or loss appropriate, operable equipment which is regularly used, is not readily portable, and cannot be protected by means other than occupancy;

(c) Protecting the public from appropriate, operable equipment which is regularly used, is not readily portable, and if left unattended, creates a hazard to public safety;

(d) Protecting the public from surface uses, workings, or improvements which, if left unattended, create a hazard to public safety; or

(e) Being located in an area so isolated or lacking in physical access as to require the mining claimant, operator, or workers to remain on site in order to work a full shift of a usual and customary length. A full shift is ordinarily 8 hours and does not include travel time to the site from a community or area in which housing may be obtained.

§ 3715.2–2 How do I justify occupancy by a caretaker or watchman?

If you assert the need for a watchman or caretaker to occupy the public